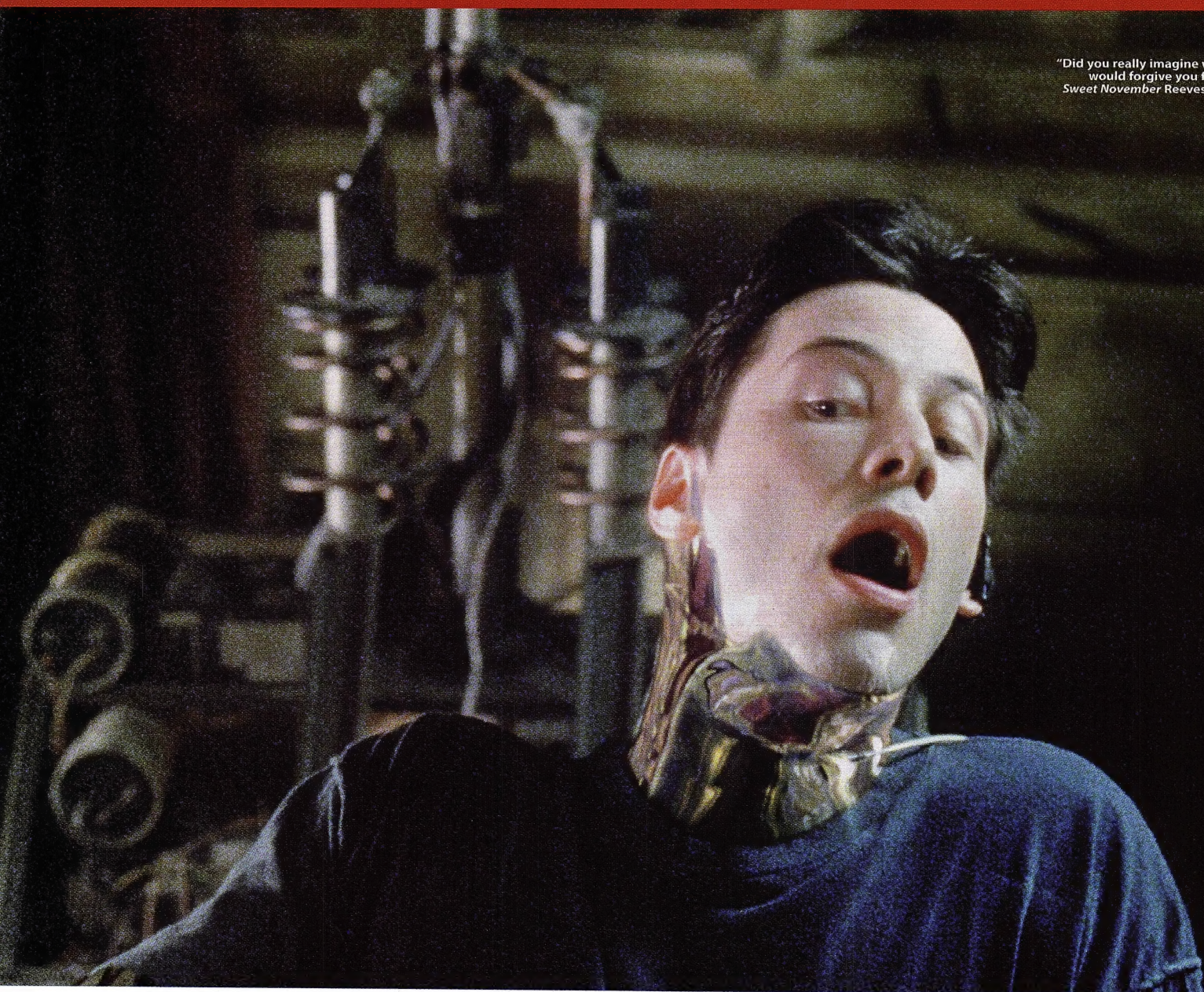


"Did you really imagine we would forgive you for Sweet November Reeves?"



THE MATRIX REVISITED

BUY IT FOR...

- ☐ THE SNEAK PEAK AT *MATRIX 2*
- ☐ THE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS
- ☐ KEANU REEVES IN A NECK BRACE

DETAILS

ON SALE NOW RATING PG YEAR 2002

DIRECTOR JOSH ORECK

STARRING KEANU REEVES, LAURENCE FISHBURNE, CARRIE-ANNE MOSS, HUGO WEAVING, ANDY WACHOWSKI, LARRY WACHOWSKI

PICTURE FULL SCREEN 4:3

SOUND DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1

THE FILM

BACK IN 1999, *THE MATRIX* ROCKED THE WORLD. A MASTERPIECE OF imagination, effects, and martial arts, it whipped the rug right out from under *The Phantom Menace* and became an instant sci-fi classic. *The Matrix* DVD broke new ground as well, championing the concept of "extra features" beyond the content of the film itself. By linking to a promotional website with exclusive extra material, it gave a sense of added value to DVD that had not previously existed in the medium.

Years later, standards have changed. Most blockbusters can expect the two disc treatment, regardless of their artistic worth. The original *Matrix* disc almost looks pale in comparison. So to complement the first release, *The Matrix: Revisited* adds a wealth of extra features for fans to enjoy. It also

contains exclusive sneak peaks at the *Matrix* sequels currently in production, and gives a hint of what to expect when *Matrix 2 (Reloaded)* hits screens in 2003.

The core of this companion disc is a movie length documentary. Footage from the set, contemporary interviews with actors, trainers, producers, and the directors, the Wachowski brothers themselves and much more combine to create a very sedate, yet exhaustively detailed documentary piece.

It begins with a look at how the visionary project got off the ground. The Wachowskis, fresh from their success with the low budget *Bound*, approached Warners with an idea for a blockbuster to end them all. While their producer trusted them, the single biggest problem at first

was that no one could understand the script. Each new person brought into the decision-making process had to be briefed on a film that changed radically part way through as the main character discovered reality wasn't real. Getting funding wasn't easy.

Nor was finding special effects houses with the guts to film what they were proposing. While doubtless experts in their field, all too often they'd approach a new firm only to see their faces go pale when they learnt what they were up against. The distinctive bullet-time effect only came about after numerous failed ideas for some kind of rocket-launched camera.

The doco is made up of hundreds of interview sound bytes, cut and edited

DID YOU KNOW?

■ In *The Woman in Red* sequence, all of the extras are identical twins and triplets - It was felt they would make the scene look noticeably more fake.

THE DANCE OF THE MASTERYUEN WO PING'S BLOCKING TAPES

■ This hilarious segment depicts the Chinese martial arts experts who trained the cast going through the action set pieces from *The Matrix*. This includes the dojo scene, the subway scene, the toilet scene, and the lobby scene. In addition to displaying

flexibility and finesse far in excess of Keanu or Carrie-Anne, they also display a great sense of humour, hamming up all the moves like they were in a Jackie Chan film. *The Matrix: Revisited* is worth it just for this segment alone!



"Okay, noone leaves until we find the remote."

together to follow common themes and for maximum impact. The behind-the-scenes footage follows the production in the order it was shot, not how it appeared on screen. Four months of rigorous kung fu training preceded the shoot, so we get to see the cast in their tracksuits making geeses of themselves. We also see the dojo fight in chronological context, as Reeves and Fishburn had to reach the height of proficiency for that astounding bout.

Following everyone's reaction to the success of *The Matrix* (surprise and delight, mostly), everyone in the chain of command gives an opinion on the sequels that corresponds to their intelligence. Keanu is obviously confused, but eager none the less.

No stone is left unturned. Costumes, locations, sound design, it's all in here. Upon seeing this documentary, you'll notice little things about *The Matrix* that had never previously risen above subconscious recognition, but will now seem as plain as day. For owners of *The Matrix* DVD, this add-on disc will make you see in it a whole new light. And if you don't own the original, there's never been a better time to buy.

THE DISC

■ **PICTURE** Obviously made for video, but of a very high standard. Differences

in grain only lend to the authentic feel of the documentary.

■ **SOUND** The 5.1 sound mix goes largely unused, considering there are so many talking heads speaking in measured tones. It only comes in handy for the brief snippets of finished footage.

■ **WHAT IS TO COME** Some brief sequences of training and stunt footage for *The Matrix: Reloaded*. No spoilers about the sequel are revealed, but we are shown elements of car chases, and action taking place inside aircraft. Most striking is a sense of awe in everyone interviewed. Having seen the scripts for the second and third films, their eyes have been opened to the full scope of the Wachowski brothers' vision. And they like it!

■ **WHAT IS ANIMATRIX?** Interviews and sneak peaks at the anime cartoons being produced to promote *The Matrix: Reloaded* (see Feature Focus).

■ **THE DANCE OF THE MASTER YUEN WO PING'S BLOCKING TAPES** The choreographers who trained the all-star cast strut their stuff (see Feature Focus).

■ **THE TRUE FOLLOWERS** This segment is kind of sad. Real life Internet junkies are interviewed about their experiences talking about the matrix online. Entire virtual communities have sprung up around *Matrix* appreciation, and these lost souls are by no means

the freakiest out there. Also, an introduction to "fan fiction," perhaps the geekiest hobby ever devised.

■ **THE BATHROOM FIGHT AND WET WALL** Looks at the bizarre set they had to build for this sequence.

■ **BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE** Random cuts of on-set high jinks.

■ **HIDDEN JUKEBOX** In the audio option screen there is a hidden option to play a jukebox of *Matrix* inspired tracks. This is no mere novelty - there are a grand total of 40 songs included. Hours of aural stimulation.

■ **WOMAN IN RED** An Easter Egg that reveals how the woman in red caused a real life traffic accident!

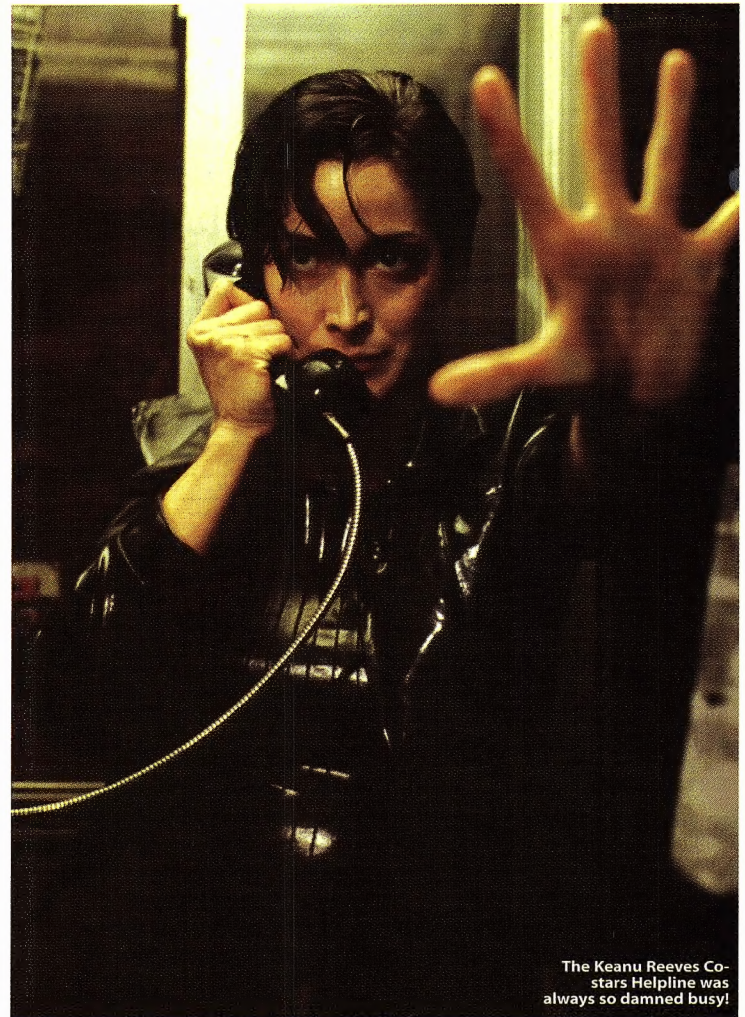
■ **KEANU EASTER EGG** More biff from the set.

■ **DVD-ROM FEATURES** Links to the website for both of the sequels.

JAMES COTTEE

IS IT WORTH IT?

An incredibly comprehensive extras disc that compliments the original DVD release to a T. It's hard to imagine them releasing a special edition down the track, as this disc has all the info you could ever want.



The Keanu Reeves Co-stars Helpline was always so damned busy!

WHAT IS ANIMATRIX?



■ Anime is the hot new AV art form of the 21st century. It combines inscrutable Japanese sensibilities with highly stylised cel animation, fantastic plots and settings, and subject matter of a maturity that belies its appearance. So when the producers of *The Matrix* were looking for a way to promote the sequels on the exclusive website, the medium that inspired so much of the movie's action seemed a logical choice. Five anime shorts are in production, to be released gradually on the web, and eventually on DVD. They deal with the broader scope of *The Matrix* universe. One describes the war that saw machines enslave humanity, another takes place in a training program. Only the best of the best anime producers are being brought on board, including the creator of the superb *Ninja Scroll*. This feature includes interviews with the Japanese animators who'll be bringing *The Matrix* into a whole new dimension.

FEATURE FOCUS